

*S. For Kel*

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1 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Chairman John Stennis re Request for  
Director's Appearance before the Senate Foreign  
Relations Committee

25X1C 1. On the Director's instructions, I today met with Chairman Stennis, Senate Armed Services Committee, and told him of the request the Director had received to appear before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday, 11 March, for a world wrap-up briefing. I explained that we were concerned over a comment by Carl Marcy, Chief of Staff of the Foreign Relations Committee, that the Committee was particularly anxious to hear from the Director regarding CIA supported activities in Laos. I reminded the Chairman of the sensitivity of some of these activities, particularly the introduction into [REDACTED]

25X1C [REDACTED] The Chairman said this was a difficult matter, but he was pressed for time and would like to consider it and give me his views a little later in the day.

2. When we met again that afternoon, I showed Senator Stennis the attached excerpt from a letter to Chairman Fulbright from an unidentified member of the Foreign Relations Committee, which Carl Marcy had given us to explain the situation which concerned them. After reading this carefully, Stennis commented that the problem was a difficult one but we must face the fact that "Congress is no longer going to accept on faith" everything it is told by the Executive Branch.

3. I asked the Chairman whether he might take the position that the matters in question fell exclusively, or at least primarily, within the jurisdiction of his Committee and should not be gone into in detail by any other Committee. He said he did not feel in a position to do this, because it would be very difficult to argue that such Agency-supported activities in Southeast Asia were none of the Foreign Relations Committee's business. He added that "we Committee chairmen don't like to get into arguments with each other on jurisdictional matters if we can help it." However,

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Chairman Stennis said if the Director wished to buy time when he does appear before the Foreign Relations Committee he could beg off answering certain questions in order to have an opportunity to review them first with the chairmen of the Agency's parent Committees.

4. Chairman Stennis asked whether we felt that the Cooper-Church amendment or other restrictive amendments to recent appropriations applied to the Agency. I said we had examined this question very carefully and concluded that our present operations were legally justifiable under the amendments in question, but some people might argue that the Agency's special authority was being used to circumvent the spirit, if not the letter, of some of these amendments. I explained that so far as the Thai battalions were concerned, these were being funded out of Defense appropriations, [REDACTED]

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5. In conclusion, Chairman Stennis said that, all things considered, the handling of questions of this kind with the Foreign Relations Committee could be properly resolved only on the White House level.

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[REDACTED]  
JOHN M. MAURY  
Legislative Counsel

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SUBJECT: MOOSE-LOWENSTEIN VISIT

IN CONVERSATION DEPTOFFS, STAFFDEL MOOSE AND LOWENSTEIN  
AS WELL AS MARCY MADE INDIGNANT REFERENCE TO EMBASSY USE  
OF NOTETAKERS AT ALL MEETINGS EMB OFFICERS/STAFF DEL. HAVE  
REQUESTED COPIES OF MESSAGES WHICH REFER TO SUCH CONVERSA-  
TIONS. WE ARE SCREENING EMBASSY MESSAGES WITH VIEW TO PRO-  
VIDING STAFF DEL USEFUL SELECTION FREE OF COMMENT BUT  
INDICATIVE OF GREEK REACTION TO VISIT.

GP-3. ROGERS

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